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" insurrectionary tendencies/' and even
 their lives are
 at the mercy of the increased audacity and
 aroused
 fanaticism of the Kurds, and this not in
 nearly inaccessible
 sible and far-off mountain valleys, but on
 the broad
 plains of Armenia, with telegraph wires
 above and
 passable roads below, and with a Governor-
 General and
 the Fourth Army Corps, numbering 20,000
 seasoned
 troops, within easy distance!

I have every reason to believe that in the
 long winter
 evenings which I have spent in these sociable
odalis, the
 peasants have talked to me freely and
 frankly. There
 are no reasons why it should be otherwise,
 for my
zaptiehs are seldom present, Moussa is
 looking after his
 horses in distant recesses, quite out of
 hearing, and my
 servants are Christians. If the people
 speak frankly,
 I am compelled to believe that the
 Armenian peasant
 is as destitute of political aspirations as he
 is ignorant
 of political grievances; that if he were
 secured from the
 ravages of Moslem marauders he would be
 as contented
 as he is loyal and industrious; and that his
 one desire
 is " protection from the Kurds" and from
 the rapacity
 of minor officials, with security for his life
 and property.
 Not on a single occasion have I heard a wish
 expressed
 for political or administrative reform, or for
 autonomy.
 The Armenian peasants are " of the earth,
 earthy," and
 the unmolested enjoyment of material good
 is their idea
 of an earthly Paradise.

With regard to the Kurds, they have been

remorse-
less robbers for ages, and as their creed
scarcely hesi-
tates to give the appropriation of the goods
of a *Kafir* a
place among the virtues, they prey upon the
Syrian and
Armenian peasants with clear consciences.
To rob them
by violence and "demand," month after
month and year
after year, till they have stripped them
nearly bare, to
cut their throats if they resist, to leave
them for a while